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Dated: 12/30/03

Signature: Valerie J. Sarosky

(Valerie J. Sarosky)

Docket No.: SEPR-P01-056
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Zepp et al.

Application No.: 10/712849

Confirmation No.:

Filed: November 13, 2003

Art Unit: N/A

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR
TREATING OR PREVENTING HEARING
IMPAIRMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the U.S. filing date, therefore, no fee is due (37 CFR 1.97(b)(1)).

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

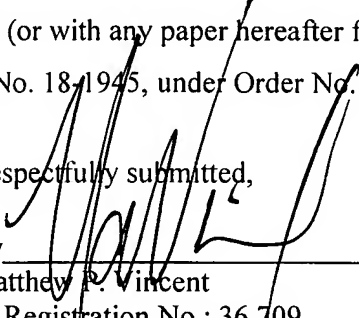
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18,1945, under Order No. SEPR-P01-056.

Dated: December 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/712849 |
| | | | | Filing Date | November 13, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Charles M. Zepp |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | SEPR-P01-056 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
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| | CA | Wolff, D. J. et al., "The antithyroid agent 6-n-propyl-2-thiouracil is a mechanism-based inactivator of the neuronal nitric oxide synthase isoform," Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics 407 (2002) 83-94. | |
| | CB | Palumbo, A. et al., "2-Thiouracil is a selective inhibitor of neuronal nitric oxide synthase antagonising tetrahydrobiopterin-dependent enzyme activation and dimerisation," FEBS Letters 485 (2000) 109-112. | |

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